Summary of DAT Conference Call 6/5/2007

Participants: EChappell (DWR), VPoage (FWS), RGartz(DFG), KFleming(DFG), JWhite(DFG), BOppenheim(NOAA), NHindman(FWS), JSnow(WWD), THinojosa(DWR), MGuerin(CCWD), JSpeegle(FWS), AChu(DWR), TSwanson(BI), BPoytress(FWS), SGreene(DWR), TBoardman(SLDMWA), DFullerton(MWD), CKao(SCVWA), RSitts(MWD),

Conclusions and Recommendations

There were no new operational recommendations today.

20mm Survey Update – DFG started Survey 7 this week. They are currently processing the samples from the south delta. So far, they have caught 1 delta smelt at station 809. DFG completed Survey 6 and caught 5 delta smelt. This season DFG has caught a total of 30 larval delta smelt. This the lowest total on record for this time period. The summer Tow Net Survey will begin next week. The results from the 20mm surveys are posted at http://www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/data/20mm/.

DSWG Update – The DSWG met yesterday, 6/4 to review the water temperature criterion and the DCC gates operations. They have formed a subgroup to review the historical temperature data and address three questions related to the current temperature criterion: 1 Does the Working Group think the particulars of this criterion useful based upon recent historical patterns?; 2 Does the criterion need to be reached over consecutive days? (There have been occasions when the criterion was reached for one day but subsequently fell below 25 degrees C); and 3 There has been at least one year when the criterion was not reached even in July; in such a case, what would be the cue to resume export pumping?

Regarding DCC gate operations the DSWG determined that with the reduced exports that re-operation of the DCC gates would have no detectable difference in particle entrainment. However, the DSWG will not pull the current recommendation at the WOMT meeting today, 6/5.

The current recommendations are to keep the combined 5-day average flows in Old River and Middle River greater than or equal to 0 cfs until south Delta water temperatures reach 25C and to open the DCC gates 7 days per week. DSWG meeting summaries are posted at http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/delta_smelt.htm.

The DWSG will meet again on Friday, 6/8 to continue discussions on the temperature criterion and DCC gate operations.

Tina Swanson (BI) recommended that the DSWG review PTM runs to determine the risk of entrainment for larval smelt in the cooler areas of the delta if the temperature criterion is met and pumping is increased. She also suggested that the DSWG compare the densities of the catch in the north delta (20mm) to the densities at the Facilities to get a rough estimate of the proportion of delta smelt that are located in the south delta. Kevin Fleming (DFG) responded that the two are not comparable given that the efficiency of both sampling gears is unknown. He also noted that the densities in the north delta have not been comparable to salvage in previous years.

General Discussion(s) – The stakeholders had three specific requests for consideration by WOMT this week:

- An update on the current status of Tier 3 with an explanation as to why it is not currently being invoked.
- More timely distribution of the WOMT notes. The stakeholders noted that they
 would also like to have a representative at the table to provide more timely feedback
 to all of the stakeholders.
- An explanation of how much more water would be needed to meet the DSWG recommended action of combined Old and Middle river flows greater than or equal to zero and a request to provide that additional water.

Rick Sitts (MWD) asked about other immediate options to increase flows near Tracy so Old and Middle rivers flow at Bacon Island would be positive, including options increasing the flow into Old River at the Old River-San Joaquin River split. Jim White (DFG) responded that south delta water diversions may be affecting the flow objective and the DFG has sent a notice to delta water diverters asking them to voluntarily cease or reduce water diversions. The notice that DFG sent to the delta water diverters and DFG's letter to DWR regarding delta smelt protective actions are posted at http://www.dfg.ca.gov/news/news07/07045.html. The SWRCB has also been looking into the issue and may make a recommendation as well. Nick Hindman (FWS) noted that additional water has been purchased so flows on the Stanislaus will remain at 1250cfs until that water runs out. The MA's and PA's are also looking for willing sellers to purchase additional water. Tracy Hinojosa (DWR) noted that the daily tidal variations can be large under the current conditions and would affect the Projects ability to meet the objective.

Next DAT Conference Call Tuesday, 6/12/2007, 9:00 am - 11:00 am. Phone number – 916/657-4111.

Chinook Monitoring

Upper Sacramento River

Red Bluff Diversion Dam –Fall-run passage increased slightly averaging 53,000 per day, late fall passage decreased averaging 326 per day, spring-run passage also decreased averaging 18 per day. No winter-run length Chinook have been recovered since April 20th. Steelhead passage averaged 174 per day.

FWS posts biweekly reports on the Bay-Delta and Tributaries Project website, at http://baydelta.ca.gov/Php/Special_Reports/red_bluff.php

Mill Creek – The catch of both Chinook and steelhead decreased last week. DFG caught 23 fry/smolt Chinook and 1 steelhead. Water temperatures are in the low 70's and trapping will continue for now.

Deer Creek – DFG pulled the trap for the season on May 18th due to low flows and high water temperatures.

Butte Creek – DFG pulled the traps on May 3rd for major repairs. They are done sampling for this season.

GCID – The catch of fry/smolt Chinook decreased last week ranging from 57 to 265 per day. DFG did not catch any adclipped Chinook or steelhead. Heavy debris is still affecting trap operations.

Knights Landing – No update.

Delta Monitoring

Summary – IEP has requested that agencies reduce monitoring efforts to protect delta smelt. Therefore there were only 2 days of sampling in the Mossdale and Sacramento River trawls and no sampling was conducted at Chipps Island. Fry/smolt Chinook were caught in low numbers in the Sacramento River trawl and in the north and central delta beach seines. Fry/smolt Chinook and steelhead are still being caught in the Mossdale trawl as well. The beach seines are still primarily catching splittail. No adult delta smelt were caught in the monitoring this week.

Sacramento Mid-water Trawl – 2 sample days, 20 samples. FWS caught 26 fry/smolt Chinook and no other species of interest.

Lower Sacramento River seine – 1 sample day, 7 samples. FWS caught 5 splittail and no other species of concern.

North Delta seine – 1 sample day, 9 samples. FWS caught 2 fry/smolt Chinook and 32 splittail.

Central Delta seine – 1 sample days, 8 samples. FWS caught 4 fry/smolt Chinook, 1 adclipped Chinook, and 20 splittail.

South Delta seine – 1 sample day, 5 samples. No species of interest.

Mossdale Kodiak Trawl – 2 sample days, 20 samples. DFG, Region 4 sampled 5 days per week. For two days of reporting they caught 63 fry/smolt Chinook, 1 inriver steelhead, and 1 splittail. DFG will continue sampling until June 15th and at that point FWS will resume sampling 3 days per week.

San Joaquin River seine – 1 sample days, 9 samples. FWS caught 2 splittail and no other species of interest.

Chipps Island Midwater Trawl – 0 sample days, 0 samples. FWS did not sample due to concerns for delta smelt.

Bay seine – 1 sample day, 1 sample. No species of interest.

Delta Smelt Monitoring

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Delta Smelt Working Group Update – The DSWG met yesterday, 6/4 to review the water temperature criterion and the DCC gates operations. They have formed a subgroup to review the historical temperature data and address three questions related to the current temperature criterion: 1 Does the Working Group think the particulars of this criterion useful based upon recent historical patterns?; 2 Does the criterion need to be reached over consecutive days? (There have been occasions when the criterion was reached for one day but subsequently fell below 25 degrees C); and 3 There has been at least one year when the criterion was not reached even in July; in such a case, what would be the cue to resume export pumping?

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Salvage Facilities -

Summary – SWP stopped pumping by the end of May 31st and pumping at CVP remains low (850cfs) for the protection of delta smelt. Fry/smolt Chinook loss remained low last week. The salvage of in-river steelhead decreased last week. The salvage of larval delta smelt increased at SWP last week and the salvage of longfin smelt increased at both Facilities. Any salvage occurring at the SWP Facility after pumping stopped on June 1st, and before the CCF gates are re-opened in the future, will be fish that entered the Forebay prior to SWP shutdown.

Chinook – No winter-run length Chinook were lost at either Facility in the last week. To date, the season total at the CVP is 1555 and the season total is 1742 at the SWP.

Steelhead – CVP salvaged 12 hatchery steelhead. SWP salvaged 1 in-river steelhead. The combined salvage of in-river steelhead is 2762 for the season. The incidental take level is 3000. Salvage has remained low since the start of VAMP but

biologists will continue to monitor salvage data, Mossdale trawl data, and water temperatures.

Delta smelt – SWP salvaged 144 delta smelt for a season total of 212. CVP salvaged 36 delta smelt for a season total of 276. In addition, there were 2 incidental observations of delta smelt at CVP on June 4th. Incidental observations are not included in the salvage estimate.

Splittail – CVP salvaged 12 splittail for a season total of 252.

Longfin smelt – SWP salvaged 40 longfin smelt for a season total of 48. CVP salvaged 12 longfin smelt for a season total of 36.

Sturgeon - None.

The DFG Salvage Database can be accessed at this ftp site: ftp://ftp.delta.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/.

Turbidity data for Clifton Court forebay is available at: http://cdec2.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/queryFx?CLC.

VAMP Update – Pat provided some information on the water quality sampling after the DAT call. The RWQCB did collected water samples on 5/22 at the site where the mortalities of the acoustically tagged fish occurred. They also noted that the treatment plant was adjusting their nitrification units during this time. The samples are being processed but no results have been provided yet.

Agricultural Barriers

HORB – Minor clean up continued last week.

Ag barriers –The two flap gates on the Middle River barrier had broken cables that are currently being repaired.

The weekly updates on barrier operations are now available at: http://baydeltaoffice.water.ca.gov/sdb/tbp/index_tbp.cfm.

Operations

SWP -

CCFB -0 cfs.

Oroville – 1,750 cfs.

X2 – west of Collinsville.

E/I - 3-day = 6.2%.

San Luis - ~562 taf. SWP share of San Luis capacity is 1,062 taf.

EWA - The current debt in San Luis for SWP is approximately 270 to 280taf. The current debt in San Luis for CVP is approximately 50 to 60taf. EWA is accruing debt

at about 10taf per day for both Projects combined (of which about 4.3 TAF accruing rate per day in keeping Jones Pumping Plant at 850 cfs). EWA is currently being used to implement the DSWG action to moderate combined Old and Middle flow greater than or equal to 0cfs which started on May 16th.

CVP -

Tracy PP - 850 cfs.

DCC - Closed. The gates will be closed today until Saturday morning.

Trinity – ramping down to summer flows.

Clear Creek – 200 cfs.

Keswick – 11,000 cfs. Releases were increased on 6/1 to help meet the outflow standard.

Nimbus – 1,500 cfs.

Goodwin – 1,250 cfs. The MA's continue to look for additional assets.

San Luis – 384 taf. CVP share of San Luis capacity is 966 taf.

Flows

Sacramento River at Freeport ~ 9,817 cfs.

Fremont Weir ~ 0.

San Joaquin River at Vernalis ~ 2,367 cfs.

Delta Outflow ~ 9,163 cfs. The 3-day average is 8,621 cfs.

Old and Middle Rivers ~ combined -442 cfs as of 6/2/07; 5-day average is -760 cfs.

Delta Water Quality

Balanced conditions were declared on June 1st. Salinity levels are still a concern at Emmaton but other than that are doing okay.

June Water Quality Standards

Collinsville X2 standard – The standard must be met for the full 30 days by a maximum daily EC of 2.64, a maximum 14-day running average EC of 2.64 or 3-day outflow of 7,100cfs.

Chipps Island X2 standard —The standard must be met for 0 days by a maximum daily EC of 2.64, a maximum 14-day running average EC of 2.64 or 3-day outflow of 11,400cfs.

Port Chicago was not triggered for May.

E/I Ratio – <= 35%.

Contra Costa Canal – $Cl \le 250$ mg/L. In addition, $Cl \le 150$ mg/L for 165 days per year. This portion of the standard has been met for 137 days so far.

Western Delta – EC <= 0.45 at Emmaton until June 15th. San Andreas station will change from 0.45 to 0.58 on 6/25.

South Delta – 30-day average EC <= 0.7

Suisun Marsh = EC <= 11

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